(c) is any amount provided for its extension in the budget for the current year; if not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for this sad omission?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—(a) About 4 miles.

(b) About 1½ miles.

(c) No. The omission was due to want of funds and the urgent demand for other works in this village.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government kindly find their way to include some funds next year at least for the road in question?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—They will consider it at the time of the budget.

Vilification—articles.

193. **Mr. C. A. Ouseph.**—Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they intend taking for the effective prevention of the general vilifications of ladies and gentlemen in which some Cochin publications are now indulging?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Action will be taken as far as possible under the provisions of the Penal Code, provided information is brought to the notice of the authorities concerned about the commission of such offences. Steps are also being taken to amend the Press Regulation.

Vellarappilli Irrigation Scheme.

194. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government undertook the Vellarappilli Irrigation Scheme;

(b) if so, when it was undertaken;

(c) how far it has progressed;

(d) and the total amount spent on the scheme till now?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) In 1105.

(c) The works of opening the canal and installing the machinery have been completed. The installation is now in working order.

(d) Rs. 14,416—11—11.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What is the total area to be benefited by the scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The scheme will benefit about 800 acres.

Tobacco imports—Vellarappilli.

195. **Mr. Joseph Pettah.**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

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(a) in what year was the annual quantity of tobacco imports into Vellarappilli fixed for the first time; what was the quantity so fixed;

(b) has the quantity been subsequently increased from time to time; if so, what was the increase so sanctioned?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(a) It has not been possible to get accurate information on the point. The oldest file on the subject shows that in 1084 the quantity allowed to Vellarappilli was 50 candies.

(b) Yes. In 1087 it was fixed at 91·02 candies per year. This was raised to 104·34 candies in 1093.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— May I know why the Government fixed the quantity of tobacco?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—It has to be fixed with the consent of the Travancore Government. The quantity was found insufficient and so that has to be raised.

196. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) what was the population of Vellarappilli each time an increase of tobacco imports into that village was sanctioned?

(b) when was the last increase sanctioned; and what was the population of Vellarappilli in that year;

(c) since then, has the population of the village increased; if so, to what extent?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—

(a)

1084	12,089
1087	13,272
1093	do

(b) In 1093—the population then was 13,272.

(c) Yes. It is now 16,932.

197. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether they are not aware that the people of Vellarappilli require more tobacco than is sanctioned to be imported at present;

(b) whether they have at any time received any petition from the people of the above village, pointing out the insufficiency of the quantity of tobacco allowed to be imported into the village at present?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(a) No.

(b) A petition dated 24th August 1932 from E. M. Kuriath tobacco licensee, was received; a copy of which is appended. (*Appendix III.*)

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